

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraphs starting at page 11, line 15 and ending at page 12, line 7 to read, as follows.

--The current detection characteristic may be switched between the case where an AC voltage no higher [[more]] than a discharge threshold voltage is applied and the case where an AC voltage no lower [[less]] than the discharge threshold voltage is applied.

The first and second detection steps may be switched between the case where an AC voltage no more than a discharge threshold voltage is applied and the case where an AC voltage no lower [[less]] than the discharge threshold voltage is applied.

With the discharge threshold voltage being the voltage for initiating discharge to the image carrier when DC voltage is applied to the charger, the current running when at least one AC voltage no more than V_t is applied to the charger and the current running when at least two AC voltages no lower [[less]] than the discharge threshold voltage are applied thereto may be detected during non-image formation.--